



The Coppy of a warrant signed by the Right Honorable, the Earle of Penbrooke, Lord Chamberlaine to his Maiestie :



O all *Maiores*, Shriffes, Iustices of the Peace, Bayliffes, Constables, and other his Maiesties Officers, True Leige men, and Subiects, whom it may concerne, and to euerie of them. *Whereas* I am credibly informed, That there are many and verie great disorders, and abuses, daily committed by diuers and sundry companies of Stage Players, Tumblers, Vaulters, Dauncers on the ropes. And also by such as goe about with Motions, and Shewes, and other the like kind of persons by reason of certaine Graunts, Commissions, and Licences, which they haue by secret meanes procured, both from the Kings Maiestie, & also from diuers Noble men, by vertue wherof they doe abusiuely claime vnto them selues a kind of licentious freedome to trauell, as well to shew play & exercise in eminent Cities and Corporations within this Kingdome, as also from place to place without the knowledge and approbation of his Maiesties Office of the Reuels, and by that meanes doe take vpon them (at their owne pleasure) to act and set forth in many places of this Kingdome diuers and sundry Playes, and Shewes, which for the most part are full of scandall and offence, both against the Church and State, and doe likewise greatly abuse their authority, in lending, letting, and selling, their said Commissions, and Licenses, to others. By reason whereof diuers lawlesse, and wandring persons are suffered to haue free passage, vnto whom such graunts, and Licenses were neuer intended; contrary to his Maiesties pleasure, the Lawes of this Land, his Maiesties graunt, and Commission to the Master of the Reuels, and the first institution of the said Office. These are therefore in his Maiesties name straightly to charge and command you, and euerie of you, That whosoeuer shall repaire to any of your Cities, Burroughs, Townes corporate, Villages, Hamlets or Parishes, and shall there, by vertue of any Commission, warrant, or Licence whatsoever: Act, set forth, shew, or present, any Play, Shew, Motion, feates of actiuitie, and sightes, whatsoever, not hauing a licence now in force vnder the hand and seale of Office of Sir *Iohn Ashley* Knight, now Master of his Maiesties Office of the Reuels, or vnder the hand of his Deputie, and sealed likewise with the said Seale of Office. That you and euerie of you at all times for euer hereafter, doe Seaze, and take away, all and euerie such Graunt, Patent, Commission or Licence whatsoever, from the bringer or bearer thereof, and that you forthwith caute the said Graunt, or Licence, to be conueyed and sent vnto his Maiesties Office of the Reuels, there to remaine at the disposition of the afore said Master of the said Office, and that to the vttermost of your power, you doe from hence forth forbid and suppress all such Playes, Shews, Motions, Feates of actiuitie, Sightes and euerie of them, vntill they shall be approued, licenced, and authorized, by the said Sir *Iohn Ashley* or his said Deputie in manner afore said. Who are appoynted by his Maiestie vnder the great Seale of England to that end and purpose. Herein fayle you not, as you will answer the contrary at your perills. And for your more certaintie I aduise you to take an exact Coppy of this my *Mandat*.
Given vnder my hand at Whitehall the 20 day of Nouember. Anno Domini 1622.

